

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06549 022252Z

17

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-04 PM-03 SP-02 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6237

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6549

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV SOPN KS JA

SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS RELATIONS

1. DURING CHAT WITH AMB HAHM IN HONOLULU, HE MENTIONED THAT, PARTIALLY THROUGH HIS EFFORTS, PRESIDENT PARK HAS AGREED TO MAKE HIMSELF ACCESSIBLE TO SELECTED U.S. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. THESE INTERVIEWS WOULD BE PART OF EFFORT REFURBISH KOREAN IMAGE IN U.S. HAHM SAID MAJOR FOCUS WILL BE ON BRINGING SENIOR U.S. AMERICAN NEWSPAPER-MEN FROM U.S. RATHER THAN ON TOKYO-BASED AMERICAN PRESS. HE ASKED ME FOR SUGGESTED NAMES AND I MENTIONED AMONG OTHERS BOB NOVAK. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO FOLLOW UP.
 2. BLUE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KIM SEONG JIN IN CONVERSATION OCTOBER 1 CONFIRMED ABOVE PROGRAM. KIM, HOWEVER, ALSO INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH TOKYO-BASED AMERICAN NEWSPAPERMEN. HE MENTIONED PLANS TO SET UP PRESS CENTER FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN SEOUL IF HE COULD OBTAIN NECESSARY FUNDS.
 3. COMMENT: BOTH CONVERSATIONS CONFIRM ROK'S RECOGNITION THAT THEY HAVE MAJOR "PUBLIC IMAGE" PROBLEM AND CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO GIVE AMERICAN PRESS CAVALIER TREATMENT.
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ON OTHER HAND, BETTER PRESS RELATIONS ARE ONLY PART OF KOREA'S PROBLEMS.

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Message Attributes

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